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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 001905

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TAGS: PREL PGOV MARR IZ CH SUBJECT: CHINA INFORMED OF FRIENDS OF IRAQ CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 50592

Classified By: Deputy Political Section Chief Ben Moeling. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

(C) Poloff met with Attache Wu Xiaofeng of the Iraq office at the MFA's West Asian and North African Affairs Department to encourage Chinese attendance at the Friends of Iraq Conference (reftel). Wu said the MFA was unaware of the invitation and was unable to assess whether China would participate. In a follow up conversation, Wu noted that the Chinese Ministry of Defense had not been previously notified of the conference. Wu said he would follow up with relevant offices in the MFA and Ministry of Defense to consider participation in the conference. RANDT